

LESSON PLAN FOR MCLEAN HOUSE

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park
TRT Peggy Voorhees 2014

There are many misconceptions relative to Lee's surrender to Grant at the end of the American Civil War. What is the true story behind this momentous occasion that signifies Appomattox as the place "where our nation reunited"?

Appomattox is the location of the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia which was arguably the primary military force for the Confederate States of America. It is here that General Lee admitted defeat and it is in the McLean House that the terms of surrender were drafted and agreed to by both sides in an official meeting marking what has come to be known as the end of the American Civil War. This lesson covers the situation leading to the surrender, the story of Wilmer McLean and history of the McLean House, and a description of the meeting between Grant and Lee inside the McLean House detailing the surrender event.



Many visitors to Appomattox Court House National Historical Park expect to visit an actual court house as the site where Lee surrendered to Grant but the McLean House, a private residence at the time, is the actual location of that historical event.

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park
<http://www.nps.gov/apco/index.htm>



Surrender at Appomattox by Keith Rocco
(NPS)

This painting shows the two generals and the two tables used as Grant drafted the terms of surrender document on one table and Lee signed it on another.

Learning Objectives:

The student will be able to comprehend the context of Lee's surrender at Appomattox

The student will know this was the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, not necessarily the end of the American Civil War

The student will be able to relate to the real life circumstances of Wilmer Mclean and the practicality of the use of his home for the surrender

The student will know the details of the surrender and the steps involved for both sides, including the terms of the surrender

The student will be able to describe the actual scenario of the surrender

The student will understand the usefulness of primary sources for the study of the social sciences

The student will be able to relate past to present concerning political, social, and economic issues

Background Information:

Students should demonstrate a general knowledge of the American Civil War before this lesson is taught. Students should show a proficient understanding of the reasons for the war, conditions for both sides, and battles prior to Appomattox. This lesson is made to take place at the surrender grounds; Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. Extension activities listed below can be employed as separate lessons, anticipatory sets, or closure activities in the classroom.

Major vocabulary introduced:

COURT HOUSE

COURTHOUSE

SURRENDER

FEDERAL

CONFEDERATE

CAVALRY

CIVILIAN

TERMS

PAROLE

Possible logistics and script for ranger talk:

Procedure:

(Major vocabulary is in all caps)

- **Begin outside the McLean House, preferably on the road or under the tree**

(In this way, the interpreter may point and guide for directional references, as well as, the courthouse and surrounding village.)

- **Narration prior to moving group into McLean House:**

Say “Welcome to Appomattox Court House National Historical Park”

Explain the difference between COURT HOUSE and COURTHOUSE and describe the village as it was in that time period. It is not in the courthouse building that the meeting between Grant and Lee takes place but here at the McLean House. Only days before, General Ulysses S. Grant, general in chief of all United States forces proposed an end to the hostilities by exchanging correspondences with General of the Army of Northern Virginia, Robert E. Lee. Lee had declined the offer but did inquire as to what the conditions would be.

Ask Q: “What do you think is going to push Lee to surrendering the Army of Northern Virginia?”

- **Recount the Days Prior the Grant-Lee Meeting (see attached)**

Introduce the McLean House as the official site of the SURRENDER of the Army of Northern Virginia to Federal troops beginning the end of the American Civil War. Emphasize this took place on April 9th 1865.

Ask Q: “Do you think this is the original structure?”

- **Describe the History of the McLean House (see attached)**
- **Lead group towards the McLean House, stopping to talk from the porch**
- **Tell Wilmer McLean story (see attached)**

Explain that the location for the meeting was to be decided by Lee who had Lieutenant Colonel Charles Marshall search for an adequate place. He encountered the CIVILIAN McLean who most likely showed him the empty Raine Tavern but as that was rejected, he offered his home.

- **Move the group into the house, present the parlor**

Describe the scenario- Lee, arrived at 1:00 and waits in the parlor. Grant arrives at 1:30. Grant is wearing his battle uniform while Lee is in an immaculate dress uniform. The two generals partake in cordial conversation for about 25 minutes until Lee brings up the reason for their meeting. The TERMS of surrender will be documented which will include PAROLE of all the Confederate officers and enlisted men.

Ask Q: “What do you think will be the attitudes of the two generals?”

- **Narrate the surrender event (see attached)**
- **Conclude by asking for questions or comments**
- **Invite students to explore the rest of the house and grounds, including the kitchen house and slave quarters** (McLean owned at least 6 slaves)

Assessment:

On-site formative questioning and observation, optional summative assessment (quiz or project) upon returning to school

Park Connections:

Clarifying and validating the story of the surrender at Appomattox thus emphasizing the importance of preserving the surrender grounds and significance of Appomattox relative to American history

Extensions:

The teacher can expand the lesson, before the visit or after, and cover additional SOLs (including English 4.2- 8.2, 9.1- 12.1, 4.6- 8.6, 9.5- 12.5, 4.7- 8.7, 9.6- 12.6, 4.8- 8.8, 9.7- 12.7, 4.9- 8.9, 9.8- 12.8) by asking students to...

1. Imagine an alternate ending to the known Lee-Grant meeting and surrender. Describe what could have happened to America had the surrender not occurred by creating a differentiated product (illustration, written work, electronic program, three dimensional model, etc.) using viable facts and scenarios while showing an alternate outcome
2. Explore the changing economic conditions for nineteenth century Virginia- antebellum, wartime, and post war years using one of the following ideas for Project Based Learning (PBL):
(utilize USA and VA maps for analysis and enhancement)

- a. Follow the Wilmer McLean story as a reference subject, using the *Wilmer McLean: the Centreville years* [sic] article and various websites. Students will research, gather, and organize information into presentable product, and display or present to show comprehension and competency of economic situation throughout the American Civil War, including pre and post war years.
 - b. Working in groups, students will research and record information for presenting to and ultimately teaching the rest of the class. Focus should be on the nineteenth century American South with some perspective comparing it to nineteenth century American North. Suggested group subject areas: economic state of the antebellum south, the changing economic situation during the war years, and economic conditions of the post-war South
3. Primary source lesson for students to analyze photograph and document found at <http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=103>
 - a. Analyze primary sources to describe the situation for America at the time of the American Civil War by creating differentiated product (illustration, written work, electronic program, three dimensional model, etc.)
4. Create time line; Research ideas different time lines- varying time allotments, subject matter, and complexity:
 - a. American Civil War to create simple time line of battles wins and losses
 - b. Conditions and strategies of both armies during the final days (evacuation of Richmond to Appomattox)
 - c. Biography of Wilmer McLean in relationship to the American Civil War
 - d. Wilmer McLean story in relationship to changing economic conditions
 - e. Appomattox Court House village history not excluding importance of stage road, event of railroad (Appomattox station) development, American Civil War (utilize maps)
 - f. Lifestyle changes enslaved and free blacks (1700s to 1900s), including Emancipation Proclamation event and Civil Rights Movement
5. Create mini biographical piece focusing on their roles relative to the American Civil War for each of the following- Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, Thomas Stonewall Jackson, and Frederick Douglas. Ideas for presenting brief summaries:
 - a. Tombstones/ graveyard
 - b. Mini biography book/ photo album
 - c. Portrayals/ with props
 - d. Puppets/ skit or facts on the back (paper bag)
6. Discover uniqueness of the American Civil War surrender by comparing and contrasting to other civil wars and their outcomes (number of wars or specifically which wars to research should be chosen by teacher). Students will research, chart information, and present and report for whole class roundtable discussion. The chart should consist of at least the following categories: place of civil war,

time period and length of war, general description of causes, how it played out, and conclusion situation. Extra: map places.

7. Primary source lesson for students to analyze (see attached)
General Robert E. Lee's Surrender; American Horace Porter was a young lieutenant colonel and aide-de-camp to Ulysses S. Grant, was a witness to the Grant-Lee meeting and surrender of which he included in a memoir entitled *Campaigning with Grant*, published in 1897. Have students answer analytical questions, create a written work, or perform a skit following the reading of the document.
8. Create a political cartoon(s)- pre war, during the war, and/ or post war; present to the class with discussion
9. Write a historical research paper; formulate a historical question and defend findings based on inquiry and interpretation
10. Hold a debate relative to the American Civil War/ Civil Rights, Federal and state rights, conclusion of American Civil War, etc. Choose enduring issue, form sides, hold classroom debate

Additional Resources:

Appomattox Court House produced by the Division of Publications, Harpers Ferry Center, National Park Service; U.S. Department of the Interior Washington D.C. 2002

The Civil War- National Park Service
www.nps.gov/civilwar/

U.S. War Dept., *The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* Series 1, vol 2, Part 1 (First Manassas Campaign) (<http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/sources/recordView.cfm?Content=002/0001>), U.S. Government Printing Office, 1880- 1901.

April 1865: The Month That Saved America by Jay Winik, Harper Collins, New York

Civil War National Battlefield Parks www.virginia.org/CWNationalbattlefields/

Civil War Trust
www.civilwar.org/battlefields/appomattox-courthouse.html

History.com for videos and information
<http://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/appomattox-court-house>

Materials Introduction:

The following materials are to be used to accompany or enhance the lesson as tools to encourage historical thinking including analysis with an emphasis on historical perspective.

Materials details:

Material #1 Days Prior the Grant-Lee Meeting document to accompany lesson plan

Material #2 History of the McLean House document to accompany lesson plan

Material #3 The Wilmer McLean Story document to accompany lesson plan

Material #4 The Surrender Event document to accompany lesson plan

Material #5 From *Campaigning with Grant* by Horace Porter primary source activity (to be used with extension activity)

Material #6 *Our Documents* #39 "Articles of Agreement Relating to the Surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia," 1865. (to be used with extension activity)

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=103>

Applicable Subjects:

Civil War

Economics

Social Studies

United States History

Related Parks:

Antietam National Battlefield

Gettysburg National Military Park

Petersburg National Battlefield

Richmond National Battlefield Park

Minimum grade, maximum grade:

Fourth grade min

Twelfth grade max

Education Standards:

National Standards (NS): 1A-G; 2A-H; 3A-E; 4A-C,F; 5A,D,E

Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs): VS 1a-I; VS.7a- c; US1.1a,d-f,h,i; US1.9a-f; CE 1a-c; CE 11a-c; VUS.1a,c-f,h,i; VUS.7a-f; Govt.1a-c,f,g; Govt.11e; Govt.14a; Govt.15c-e

Applicable Keywords:

American Civil War

Appomattox

McLean House

Material #1: The Days Prior the Grant-Lee Meeting

The following is a brief summary of the days leading to the surrender. General Lee evacuated Richmond and Petersburg on April 2 and 3 of 1865. The plan was to move to Amelia for supplies and then towards North Carolina to meet General Johnston's Army as he was heading north from there. However, no rations were to be had in Amelia and a day was wasted trying to find provisions. This enabled FEDERAL troops under the direction of Ulysses S. Grant, general in chief of all United States forces, to catch up to the CONFEDERATES and block their route southward.

The southern army then changed their plan to one that consisted of moving westward to Farmville for supplies. On April 6th Lee's cavalry prevented the destruction of High Bridge by fighting the Federal raiding party who was there to burn the bridge down. With the Federal army blocking the way, the Confederate retreat consisted of Union attacks and an urgency for the southern army to keep moving westward onto the Richmond- Lynchburg Stage Road.

Lee's objective at this point was to reach Appomattox Station for rations from Lynchburg. From Farmville, Grant sent a note asking Lee who was near Cumberland Church to surrender, but the Confederates were not ready to declare defeat. The Federal troops made their way south and west of Appomattox.

April 8th brought the Confederates a mile northeast of Appomattox Court House. The Confederate Cavalry was flanked around the Tibb's Place and the Federal Cavalry was on the Ridge. The people of the quaint little village of Appomattox Court House found themselves in the midst of a battle as one more attempt was made by the Confederates to break through and move southward. Confederate General Gordon attacked the Union CAVALRY blocking the stage road but this last battle proved unsuccessful for the southern army and Lee knew it was finally time to submit.

Material#2: McLean House History

The McLean House had been the Raine tavern (obelisk in Park cemetery= Raine family cemetery). This tavern was in addition to another tavern in the village and so in time the building went up for sale and the family moved to Lynchburg. This was about the time Wilmer McLean was outing out feelers for property in the area and he discovered this property. In early 1862, McLean bought the house and property making it for the first time a residential home. The Raine Tavern was moved to the left when Wilmer and his family moved in.

After the surrender and due to economic problems, the home was sold at auction in 1867 to John L. Pascoe and probably rented to the Ragland family. The McLeans moved back to Manassas. In 1872, Nathaniel H. Ragland purchased the property for \$1250.00 and subsequently other single family owners owned the home throughout the years. It not until is 1891 that someone took interest in the building for its historic significance. Captain Myron Dunlap of Niagara Falls purchased the property for \$10,000.00. The plan of Dunlap and partners was to disassemble the home and move it to Washington D.C. to be set up for the 1893 World's Columbian Exhibition.

Then the new plan was to measure all the house dimensions, record all the details, dismantle the home, and pack it up for exhibition on Washington D.C. but the move never happened and the dismantled home sat as junk for fifty years. Unfortunately, most of the wood was gone and locals helped themselves to most of the bricks so that by 1940 when the 970 acres called Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument was instituted and acquired much of the original home was gone.

In 1941, 84 years since the surrender (though it was put on hold during World War II) archaeological work was complete and reconstruction begun on what is now open to the public as the Appomattox County National Historical Park. In 1950 a dedication ceremony was held with direct descendants of the famous American Civil War generals, Major General U.S. Grant and Robert E. Lee IV, present to cut the ribbon.

Material #3: The Wilmer McLean Story

It is said: "The American Civil War started in Wilmer McLean's front yard and ended in his front parlor." Wilmer McLean was making his living as a sugar broker supplying the Confederate States Army while living in Manassas, Virginia. McLean was a profiteer and as the middle man for a sugar blockading enterprise with his brother (in Cuba), he saw that having a train nearby would be good for his business. McLean made a lot of Confederate money off his own people but by the end of the war he would be broke.

At the First Battle of Bull Run in July of 1861 Union Army artillery apparently fired at McLean's house, even sending a cannonball through the kitchen fireplace while General Beauregard was staying there. However, to refer to the war as being fought in his front yard is somewhat of stretch since the fighting was approximately three miles away.

Two reasons seemed to motivate McLean to move south- one, his commercial activities were centered mostly in southern Virginia, and two, it seemed to be a safer option. Thus, in the spring of 1863, the McLean family moved to Appomattox Court House.

Material #4: The Surrender Event

Other officers present for the North were Sheridan, Ord, and Captain Robert Todd Lincoln (the President's son). Other officers present for the South were Babcock and Marshall. Lieutenant Colonel Ely S. Parker (a Seneca Indian Chief) drafted the official copies of the terms Lee and Grant signed.

The terms: parole for all officers and enlisted men, all Confederate military equipment must be relinquished, though Grant agreed to Lee's request that soldiers may keep their horses or mules since they were privately owned. Grant also ordered 25,000 rations to be given from the Federal Army to the surrendered Confederate Army. General Grant reflected President Lincoln's view and was compassionate and generous. Lee knew the best course to take for his men. The arms would be stacked and each Confederate soldier would be allowed to return to their home free of any harassment by Federal forces.

General Grant's staff prepared two drafts of the final document and Grant signed both. General Lee signed the letter Marshall had drafted. When the terms were drafted, signed, and exchanged the meeting ended. At approximately 3:00 in the afternoon, General Lee and General Grant shook hands. Lee returned the salutes to the Federal soldiers in the yard of the McLean House, mounted his horse Traveller, and slowly rode away. As he did so, Grant and the other Union officers removed their hats and Lee lifted his in acknowledgement of their sign of respect.

Both sides showed signs of relief and jubilation. Grant had his soldiers stop their 110-gun salute but there was still much shouting and rejoicing. Some of Lee's army showed anger but most seemed to find relief in the end of such an intense week of marching hungry and fighting weary. The attitudes of both generals are commendable; Lee asked all Confederate soldiers to resist turning to guerilla warfare and Grant asked his men to be humble, thus, The American Civil War was on its way to ending fairly uncomplicated.

April 10th consisted of the Surrender Commissioners' meeting inside the McLean House, as well as, setting up the Clover Hill tavern as the location of the printing presses for the parole passes. The Committee of six, three from each side, worked together and drew up a blueprint for the ceremonial stacking of the arms which would occur two days later. Approximately 21,000 to 22,000 Confederates took part in the ceremony. The presses printed 30,000 parole passes.

At approximately 10:00am, Grant and Lee met again as Grant requested Lee to assist in encouraging the rest of the Confederate Army to surrender. Lee responded that that was for President Davis to decide. This final meeting lasted about thirty minutes and the two remained mounted on their horses for that time.

Grant departed that day for Petersburg and Lee had General Order No.9 drafted, which he revised himself, and he stayed in the Appomattox area until April 12th.

Material #5: Excerpt from Campaigning With Grant by Horace Porter

General Robert E. Lee's Surrender

American Horace Porter was a young lieutenant colonel and aide-de-camp to Ulysses S. Grant, commander in chief of Union forces, from April 1864 to the end of the Civil War in 1865. Porter was among the witnesses when Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, on April 9, 1865. His incisive, readable account of the events of that day was included in a memoir entitled *Campaigning with Grant*, published in 1897.

From *Campaigning with Grant*

By Horace Porter

It was proposed to the general to ride during the day in a covered ambulance which was at hand, instead of on horseback, so as to avoid the intense heat of the sun; but his soldierly instincts rebelled against such a proposition, and he soon after mounted 'Cincinnati,' and started from Curdsville toward New Store. From this point he went by way of a cross-road to the south side of the Appomattox, with the intention of moving around to Sheridan's front....

...About one o'clock the little village of Appomattox Court-house, with its half-dozen houses, came in sight, and soon we were entering its single street. It is situated on rising ground, and beyond it the country slopes down into a broad valley. The enemy was seen with his columns and wagon-trains covering the low ground. Our cavalry, the Fifth Corps, and part of [Edward O. C.] Ord's command were occupying the high ground to the south and west of the enemy, heading him off completely. We saw a group of officers who had dismounted and were standing at the edge of the town, and at their head we soon recognized the features of [Major General Philip Henry] Sheridan. No one could look at Sheridan at such a moment without a sentiment of undisguised admiration. In this campaign, as in others, he had shown himself possessed of military traits of the highest order. Bold in conception, self-reliant, demonstrating by his acts that 'much danger makes great hearts most resolute,' fertile in resources, combining the restlessness of a Hotspur with the patience of a Fabius, it is no wonder that he should have been looked upon as the wizard of the battle-field. Generous of his life, gifted with the ingenuity of a Hannibal, the dash of a Murat, the courage of a Ney, the magnetism of his presence roused his troops to deeds of individual heroism, and his unconquerable columns rushed to victory with all the confidence of Cæsar's Tenth Legion. Wherever blows fell thickest, there was his crest. Despite the valor of the defense, opposing ranks went down before the fierceness of his onsets, never to rise again, and he would not pause till the folds of his banners waved above the strongholds he had wrested from the foe. Brave Sheridan! I can almost see him now, his silent clay again quickened into life, once more riding 'Rienzi' through a fire of hell, leaping opposing earthworks at a single bound, and leaving nothing of those who barred his way except the fragments scattered in his path. As long as manly courage is talked of, or heroic deeds are honored, the hearts of a grateful people will beat responsive to the mention of the talismanic name of Sheridan.

Ord and others were standing in the group before us, and as our party came up General Grant greeted the officers, and said, 'How are you, Sheridan?' 'First-rate, thank you; how are you?' cried Sheridan, with a voice and look which seemed to indicate that, on his part, he was having things

all his own way. 'Is Lee over there?' asked Grant, pointing up the road, having heard a rumor that Lee was in that vicinity. 'Yes; he is in that brick house, waiting to surrender to you,' answered Sheridan. 'Well, then, we'll go over,' said Grant.

The general-in-chief now rode on, accompanied by Sheridan, Ord, and others. Soon Colonel Babcock's orderly was seen sitting on his horse in the street in front of a two-story brick house, better in appearance than the rest of the houses. He said General Lee and Colonel [Orville E.] Babcock [another of Grant's aides-de-camp] had gone into this house half an hour before, and he was ordered to post himself in the street and keep a lookout for General Grant, so as to let him know where General Lee was.

Babcock told me afterward that in carrying General Grant's last letter he passed through the enemy's lines, and found General Lee a little more than half a mile beyond Appomattox Court-house. He was lying down by the roadside on a blanket which had been spread over a few fence-rails placed on the ground under an apple-tree which was part of an old orchard. This circumstance furnished the only ground for the wide-spread report that the surrender occurred under an apple-tree, and which has been repeated in song and story. There may be said of that statement what Cuvier said of the French Academy's definition of a crab—'brilliant, but not correct.'

Babcock dismounted upon coming near, and as he approached Lee sat up, with his feet hanging over the roadside embankment. The wheels of wagons, in passing along the road, had cut away the earth of this embankment, and left the roots of the tree projecting. Lee's feet were partly resting on these roots. Colonel Charles Marshall, his military secretary, came forward, took the despatch which Babcock handed him, and gave it to General Lee. After reading it the general rose, and said he would ride forward on the road on which Babcock had come, but was apprehensive that hostilities might begin in the mean time, upon the termination of the temporary truce, and asked Babcock to write a line to [Major General George Gordon] Meade [commander of the Army of the Potomac] informing him of the situation. Babcock wrote accordingly, requesting Meade to maintain the truce until positive orders from Grant could be received. To save time, it was arranged that a Union officer, accompanied by one of Lee's officers, should carry this letter through the enemy's lines. This route made the distance to Meade nearly ten miles shorter than by the roundabout way of the Union lines. Lee now mounted his horse, and directed Colonel Marshall to accompany him. They started for Appomattox Court-house in company with Babcock, followed by a mounted orderly. When the party reached the village they met one of its residents, named Wilmer McLean, who was told that General Lee wished to occupy a convenient room in some house in the town. McLean ushered them into the sitting-room of one of the first houses he came to; but upon looking about, and seeing that it was small and unfurnished, Lee proposed finding something more commodious and better fitted for the occasion. McLean then conducted the party to his own house, about the best one in the town, where they awaited General Grant's arrival.

The house had a comfortable wooden porch with seven steps leading up to it. A hall ran through the middle from front to back, and upon each side was a room having two windows, one in front and one in rear. Each room had two doors opening into the hall. The building stood a little distance back from the street, with a yard in front, and to the left on entering was a gate for carriages, and a roadway running to a stable in rear. We entered the grounds by this gate, and dismounted. In the yard were seen a fine, large gray horse, which proved to be General Lee's favorite animal, called 'Traveler,' and a good-looking, dark-colored mare belonging to Colonel

Marshall. An orderly in gray was in charge of them, and had taken off their bridles to let them crop the grass.

General Grant mounted the steps and entered the house. As he stepped into the hall, Colonel Babcock, who had seen his approach from the window, opened the door of the room on the left, in which he had been sitting with General Lee and Colonel Marshall awaiting General Grant's arrival. The general passed in, and as Lee arose and stepped forward, Grant extended his hand, saying, 'General Lee,' and the two shook hands cordially. The members of the staff, Generals Sheridan and Ord, and some other general officers who had gathered in the front yard, remained outside, feeling that General Grant would probably prefer his first interview with General Lee to be, in a measure, private. In a few minutes Colonel Babcock came to the front door, and, making a motion with his hat toward the sitting-room, said: 'The general says come in.' It was then about half-past one on Sunday, the 9th of April. We entered, and found General Grant seated in an old office armchair in the center of the room, and Lee sitting in a plain arm-chair with a cane seat beside a square, marble-topped table near the front window, in the corner opposite the door by which we entered, and facing General Grant. Colonel Marshall was standing at his left, with his right elbow resting upon the mantelpiece. We walked in softly, and ranged ourselves quietly about the sides of the room, very much as people enter a sick-chamber when they expect to find the patient dangerously ill. Some found seats on the sofa standing against the wall between the two doors and on the few plain chairs which constituted the furniture, but most of the party stood.

The contrast between the two commanders was singularly striking, and could not fail to attract marked attention as they sat, six or eight feet apart, facing each other. General Grant, then nearly forty-three years of age, was five feet eight inches in height, with shoulders slightly stooped. His hair and full beard were nut-brown, without a trace of gray in them. He had on his single-breasted blouse of dark-blue flannel, unbuttoned in front and showing a waistcoat underneath. He wore an ordinary pair of top-boots, with his trousers inside, and was without spurs. The boots and portions of his clothes were spattered with mud. He had worn a pair of thread gloves of a dark-yellow color, which he had taken off on entering the room. His felt 'sugar-loaf,' stiff-brimmed hat was resting on his lap. He had no sword or sash, and a pair of shoulder-straps was all there was about him to designate his rank. In fact, aside from these, his uniform was that of a private soldier.

Lee, on the other hand, was six feet and one inch in height, and erect for one of his age, for he was Grant's senior by sixteen years. His hair and full beard were a silver-gray, and thick, except that the hair had become a little thin in front. He wore a new uniform of Confederate gray, buttoned to the throat, and a handsome sword and sash. The sword was of exceedingly fine workmanship, and the hilt was studded with jewels. It had been presented to him by some ladies in England who sympathized with the cause he represented. His top-boots were comparatively new, and had on them near the top some ornamental stitching of red silk. Like his uniform, they were clean. On the boots were handsome spurs with large rowels. A felt hat which in color matched pretty closely that of his uniform, and a pair of long, gray buckskin gauntlets, lay beside him on the table. We endeavored afterward to learn how it was that he wore such fine clothes, and looked so much as if he had turned out to go to church that Sunday afternoon, while with us our outward garb scarcely rose to the dignity even of the 'shabby-genteel.' One explanation was that when his headquarters wagons had been pressed so closely by our cavalry a few days before, it was found that his officers would have to destroy all their baggage, except the clothes they carried on their backs; and each one naturally selected the newest suit he had, and sought to

propitiate the god of destruction by a sacrifice of his second-best. Another reason given was that, in deference to General Grant, General Lee had dressed himself with special care for the purpose of the meeting.

Grant began the conversation by saying: 'I met you once before, General Lee, while we were serving in Mexico, when you came over from General Scott's headquarters to visit Garland's brigade, to which I then belonged. I have always remembered your appearance, and I think I should have recognized you anywhere.' 'Yes,' replied General Lee; 'I know I met you on that occasion, and I have often thought of it, and tried to recollect how you looked, but I have never been able to recall a single feature.' After some further mention of Mexico, General Lee said: 'I suppose, General Grant, that the object of our present meeting is fully understood. I asked to see you to ascertain upon what terms you would receive the surrender of my army.' General Grant replied: 'The terms I propose are those stated substantially in my letter of yesterday; that is, the officers and men surrendered to be paroled and disqualified from taking up arms again until properly exchanged, and all arms, ammunition, and supplies to be delivered up as captured property.' Lee nodded an assent, and said: 'Those are about the conditions which I expected would be proposed.' General Grant then continued: 'Yes; I think our correspondence indicated pretty clearly the action that would be taken at our meeting, and I hope it may lead to a general suspension of hostilities, and be the means of preventing any further loss of life.'

Lee inclined his head as indicating his accord with this wish, and General Grant then went on to talk at some length in a very pleasant vein about the prospects of peace. Lee was evidently anxious to proceed to the formal work of the surrender, and he brought the subject up again by saying:

'I presume, General Grant, we have both carefully considered the proper steps to be taken, and I would suggest that you commit to writing the terms you have proposed, so that they may be formally acted upon.'

'Very well,' replied Grant; 'I will write them out.' And calling for his manifold order-book, he opened it, laid it on a small oval wooden table which Colonel Parker brought to him from the rear of the room, and proceeded to write the terms. The leaves had been so prepared that three impressions of the writing were made. He wrote very rapidly, and did not pause until he had finished the sentence ending with 'officers appointed by me to receive them.' Then he looked toward Lee, and his eyes seemed to be resting on the handsome sword that hung at that officer's side. He said afterward that this set him to thinking that it would be an unnecessary humiliation to require the officers to surrender their swords, and a great hardship to deprive them of their personal baggage and horses; and after a short pause he wrote the sentence: 'This will not embrace the side-arms of the officers, nor their private horses or baggage.'

When he had finished the letter he called Colonel Parker to his side, and looked it over with him, and directed him as they went along to interline six or seven words, and to strike out the word 'their,' which had been repeated. When this had been done the general took the manifold writer in his right hand, extended his arm toward Lee, and started to rise from his chair to hand the book to him. As I was standing equally distant from them, with my back to the front window, I stepped forward, took the book, and passed it to General Lee. The terms were as follows:

APPOMATTOX COURT-HOUSE, VA., April 9, 1865.

GENERAL R. E. LEE, Commanding C. S. A.

GENERAL: In accordance with the substance of my letter to you of the 8th inst., I propose to receive the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia on the following terms, to wit: Rolls of all the officers and men to be made in duplicate, one copy to be given to an officer to be

designated by me, the other to be retained by such officer or officers as you may designate. The officers to give their individual paroles not to take up arms against the Government of the United States until properly [exchanged], and each company or regimental commander to sign a like parole for the men of their commands. The arms, artillery, and public property to be parked and stacked and turned over to the officers appointed by me to receive them. This will not embrace the side-arms of the officers, nor their private horses or baggage. This done, each officer and man will be allowed to return to his home, not to be disturbed by the United States authorities so long as they observe their paroles and the laws in force where they may reside.

Very respectfully,

U. S. GRANT,

Lieutenant-general....

While the letters were being copied, General Grant introduced the general officers who had entered, and each member of the staff, to General Lee. The general shook hands with General Seth Williams, who had been his adjutant when Lee was superintendent at West Point some years before the war, and gave his hand to some of the other officers who had extended theirs; but to most of those who were introduced he merely bowed in a dignified and formal manner. He did not exhibit the slightest change of features during this ceremony until Colonel Parker of our staff was presented to him. Parker being a full-blooded Indian, when Lee saw his swarthy features he looked at him with evident surprise, and his eyes rested on him for several seconds. What was passing in his mind no one knew, but the natural surmise was that he at first mistook Parker for a negro, and was struck with astonishment to find that the commander of the Union armies had one of that race on his personal staff.

Lee did not utter a word while the introductions were going on, except to Seth Williams, with whom he talked cordially. Williams at one time referred in a rather jocose manner to a circumstance which had occurred during their former service together, as if he wished to say something in a good-natured way to thaw the frigidity of the conversation; but Lee was in no mood for pleasantries, and he did not unbend, or even relax the fixed sternness of his features. His only response to the remark was a slight inclination of the head. General Lee now took the initiative again in leading the conversation back into business channels. He said:

'I have a thousand or more of your men as prisoners, General Grant, a number of them officers, whom we have required to march along with us for several days. I shall be glad to send them into your lines as soon as it can be arranged, for I have no provisions for them. I have, indeed, nothing for my own men. They have been living for the last few days principally upon parched corn, and we are badly in need of both rations and forage. I telegraphed to Lynchburg, directing several train-loads of rations to be sent on by rail from there, and when they arrive I should be glad to have the present wants of my men supplied from them.'

At this remark all eyes turned toward Sheridan, for he had captured these trains with his cavalry the night before near Appomattox Station. General Grant replied: 'I should like to have our men sent within our lines as soon as possible. I will take steps at once to have your army supplied with rations, but I am sorry we have no forage for the animals. We have had to depend upon the country for our supply of forage. Of about how many men does your present force consist?'

'Indeed, I am not able to say,' Lee answered, after a slight pause. 'My losses in killed and wounded have been exceedingly heavy, and, besides, there have been many stragglers and some deserters. All my reports and public papers, and indeed some of my own private letters, had to be destroyed on the march to prevent them from falling into the hands of your people. Many

companies are entirely without officers, and I have not seen any returns for several days, so that I have no means of ascertaining our present strength.'

General Grant had taken great pains to have a daily estimate made of the enemy's forces from all the data that could be obtained, and judging it to be about 25,000 at this time, he said: 'Suppose I send over 25,000 rations, do you think that will be a sufficient supply?' 'I think it will be ample,' remarked Lee, and added with considerable earnestness of manner, 'and it will be a great relief, I assure you.'...

BEFORE PARTING Lee asked Grant to notify Meade of the surrender, fearing that fighting might break out on that front, and lives be uselessly lost. This request was complied with, and two Union officers were sent through the enemy's lines as the shortest route to Meade, some of Lee's officers accompanying them to prevent their being interfered with. A little before four o'clock General Lee shook hands with General Grant, bowed to the other officers, and with Colonel Marshall left the room. One after another we followed, and passed out to the porch. Lee signaled to his orderly to bring up his horse, and while the animal was being bridled the general stood on the lowest step, and gazed sadly in the direction of the valley beyond, where his army lay—now an army of prisoners. He thrice smote the palm of his left hand slowly with his right fist in an absent sort of way, seemed not to see the group of Union officers in the yard, who rose respectfully at his approach, and appeared unaware of everything about him. All appreciated the sadness that overwhelmed him, and he had the personal sympathy of every one who beheld him at this supreme moment of trial. The approach of his horse seemed to recall him from his reverie, and he at once mounted. General Grant now stepped down from the porch, moving toward him, and saluted him by raising his hat. He was followed in this act of courtesy by all our officers present. Lee raised his hat respectfully, and rode off at a slow trot to break the sad news to the brave fellows whom he had so long commanded.

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